WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of representing real time data in a graphical format on a display of a data processing system, comprising:

providing a user positionable icon as a portion of the display;

determining the position of the icon; and

refreshing the graphical representation responsive to receiving a new data point, wherein the position of the icon determines how much historical data is retained in the refreshed display.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical representation is refreshed when the graphical representation is full.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the refreshing the representation comprises shifting all data points horizontally by a displacement, wherein the displacement is determined by the position of the icon.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising appending a new data point to the display without discarding any historical data when the display is not full.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the position of the icon determines the location of the first new data point occurring after the display is refreshed.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein representation includes a left side vertical axis and a right side vertical axis, wherein data points in proximity to the left-side vertical axis are older than data points in proximity to the right-side vertical axis.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein positioning of the icon at the left-side vertical axis will erase all historical data when the representation is refreshed and wherein positioning of the icon at the right side vertical axis will erase a single data point when the representation is refreshed.

8. A data processing system, including a processor, memory, and display, comprising:

computer code means for representing real time data in a graphical format on the display;

computer code means for displaying a user-positionable icon as part of the graphical representation and for determining the position of the icon; and

computer code means for refreshing the graphical representation responsive to receiving a new data point, wherein the position of the icon determines how much historical data is retained in the refreshed display.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the graphical representation is refreshed when the graphical representation is full.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the code means for refreshing the representation comprises code means for shifting all data points horizontally by a displacement, wherein the displacement is determined by the position of the icon.

11. The system of claim 8, further comprising computer code means for appending a new data point to the display without discarding any historical data when the display is not full.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the position of the icon determines the location of the first new data point occurring after the display is refreshed.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein representation includes a left side vertical axis and a right side vertical axis, wherein data points in proximity to the left-side vertical axis are older than data points in proximity to the right-side vertical axis.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein positioning of the icon at the left-side vertical axis will erase all historical data when the representation is refreshed and wherein positioning of the icon at the right side vertical axis will erase a single data point when the representation is refreshed.

15. A computer program product for displaying real time data on a data processing system, the product being stored on a computer readable medium and comprising:

computer code means for representing real time data in a graphical format on the display;

computer code means for displaying a user-positionable icon as part of the graphical representation and for determining the position of the icon; and

computer code means for refreshing the graphical representation responsive to receiving a new data point, wherein the position of the icon determines how much historical data is retained in the refreshed display.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the graphical representation is refreshed when the graphical representation is full.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the code means for refreshing the representation comprises code means for shifting all data points horizontally by a displacement, wherein the displacement is determined by the position of the icon.

18. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising computer code means for appending a new data point to the display without discarding any historical data when the display is not full.

19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the position of the icon determines the location of the first new data point occurring after the display is refreshed.

20. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein representation includes a left side vertical axis and a right side vertical axis, wherein data points in proximity to the left-side vertical axis are older than data points in proximity to the right-side vertical axis.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein positioning of the icon at the left-side vertical axis will erase all historical data when the representation is refreshed and wherein positioning of the icon at the right side vertical axis will erase a single data point when the representation is refreshed.